

# realencouragement

Lakeshore Community Church

realencouragement.org

Volume 14, No. 2

## Summer Fun at Lakeshore



*The fun has begun on the Lakeshore Community Center addition! To find out more about the progress of construction, check out [lakeshorechurch.org](http://lakeshorechurch.org) and click on the "Finishing The Work" link.*

This summer while we all tend to relax and slow down, Lakeshore will be busy holding a variety of services, training events and gatherings that will add lots of fun, spiritual growth and encouragement to your life. To help you prepare, here are some of the many events you can look forward to:

- 1) **June 28 conclusion to the "I Think I Married the Wrong Person" series.** It's a surprise but if you love your spouse, do not miss the June 28 service (and don't come without them ☺).
- 2) **July 4<sup>th</sup> Community Day.** This casual, family fun day begins in the afternoon and lasts until the fireworks go off at night with plenty of food and festivities in between.
- 3) **July 5 new series begins, "Leadership Matters."** Learning from the Old Testament book of Nehemiah, we'll discover some of his incredible leadership practices and how to apply them in to our own lives during tough times. And times will likely get tougher, don't you think?
- 4) **July 25 & August 15 Community Group Training.** This fall we'll be launching a new year of Community Groups beginning with the church-wide program, "Just Walk Across the Room." To find out more about leading and helping with a community group, sign up for one of these Saturday sessions.
- 5) **August 2 "Joint Service" and church picnic.** This year, Lakeshore will be joined by four other churches (three primarily African-American and one Messianic Jewish) to celebrate our unity as Christ-followers. No other service during the summer matches the energy of this one. The annual

### In This Issue

- 1 Pastor Vince's Message
- 2 Finishing The Work Update
- 3 Ignite Student Ministries
- 4 It's A King Thing!
- 5 Baptisms At Lakeshore
- 6 Talking With God
- 6 Waiting
- 7 Sunday/Midweek Services



**Real Encouragement** is published quarterly as a ministry of Lakeshore Community Church.

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#### **Next Edition**

Articles for the next edition of Real Encouragement are due by or before August 15. Submitting articles and photos early is appreciated. Submit text and photos by email to Amy Mitchell at

## Summer Fun at Lakeshore *Continued*

6) **August 6-7 The Leadership Summit.** This live via satellite event will be hosted by Lakeshore for churches in Western NY with 300 leaders expected to attend. We strongly encourage you to attend to grow your leadership (a special \$75 rate is available to LCCers).

7) **August 1 & 22 Baptism Celebrations.** If you haven't been baptized since you made a faith-commitment to Christ, this is your opportunity to "take the plunge"! Required orientation classes are offered before each celebration.

Amidst all your summer fun and vacation time, don't take a vacation from God! Be sure to include these events in your summer fun plans.

Very WARMLY,  
Pastor Vince




## Finishing The Work



*By Pastor Herb*

Our Finishing the Work campaign is nineteen weeks into the three year monthly giving (through May 10, 2009). Our pledges totaled \$1,357,103 composed of \$574,028 in up-front gifts and \$783,075 over three years (weekly, monthly, annual and special pledges).

To date we have received \$656,834 consisting of \$580,493 up-front gifts and \$76,341 toward the 3 year total. Percentage-wise, we have received 48% of the total pledged, 101% of pledged up-front gifts, and 9.7% of the 3 Year total pledge. Using the three-year time (target = 19/156) we are 12% into the campaign. Using the pledged up-front and time target percentage of the three year total we are 49% into the campaign dollar-wise.

The table below illustrates where we stand on Finishing The Work.

	Pledge	Up Front	Over 3 Years
Pledge	\$1,357,103	\$574,028	\$783,075
Actual	\$656,834	\$580,493	\$76,341
Actual TD Percent	48%	101%	9.7%
Target TD Percentage	49%	100%	12%

# Ignite Student Ministries

## Fighting Hunger, Ministering Beyond our Borders

At the end of March, about 60 ISM students willingly chose to go without food for 30 straight hours to raise awareness and funds to fight the global war on hunger. It was amazing to watch God open all of our eyes to the intense needs of those around the world, and to our incredible wealth. Many of us were changed in big ways that weekend...and the neat thing is that weeks later the impact hasn't worn off. ***As followers of Christ, and as members of one of the world's wealthiest societies, I believe that we have a responsibility to personally invest in the world's poorest...***and it's driving our summer calendar even as we look to 2010!

After months of praying and wading through numerous options available, we are ready to step out and begin the process of sending a team of students to Mozambique, Africa next summer. It is my hope and dream that we would be able to send a team of students every 3-4 years to this same location, and to build a partnership between us and the Church there in Mozambique. I dream of our ministry being able to financially support and sponsor individual children throughout the year, then personally visit those children face to face when we send teams over. Can you imagine the impact? Of all the places in the world to send a team of students, Mozambique is definitely "out there". It'll be a significant financial investment and a project spanning 17 months. But, with everything inside me, I whole-heartedly believe it'll bring about an impact well worth the investment!

In order to most effectively lead the trip in 2010, a few of the ISM youth leaders and I will be taking a vision trip to Mozambique this August so that we can see with our own eyes the needs, and all that God is already doing. Would you pray for us right now that God would prepare our hearts personally, that the needed financial support will be raised, and that God will do a work in us on this trip that will drive this entire ministry for years to come? It's an impact worth investing in!

Partnering with you,

## Waiting

By Amy Mitchell

Have you ever waited for something, not certain what the end result will be?

This spring, my children and I decided to start a garden. Now, I am the last person you would ever imagine attempting such a thing. I have been known to kill an indoor cactus. But for the sake of my daughter, I gave it a whirl. We planted several kinds of seeds and bulbs. Then, we waited.

Waiting for a garden to grow is not only tedious, it can be very tense! We had no idea what was going to happen. Would the plants look just like the packages? Would they even come up at all? I am not a patient person, and I tend to fear the worst. But then one day, something amazing happened. Small, tender green shoots began to peek through the top soil. They have yet to flower, but they are definitely growing and thriving.

We all wait for so many things. A new job, a yet-to-be-born baby, the next paycheck, an important delivery. Even at Lakeshore we are waiting, anticipating the LC2. As we do, let us remember Psalm 145:15-16:

The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food at the proper time.  
You open your hand  
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

Let God satisfy all your desires. What are you waiting for?



Summertime means enjoying the great outdoors! Fresh air, exercise, great fun with friends. And this year, summertime means

# It's a King Thing

SERFS will be on hand to lead our kids around Israel as we listen in on royal conversations, spy out danger and match wits with great kings. We'll meet Saul, David, Ahab, Esther, Rehoboam, Hezekiah, Agrippa and more. As we bow and curtsy our way through a royal summer, we'll pray together, sing together, munch together, make some cool crafts, play some fun games and explore God's wonderful world of science. **It won't be the same without you!** Please join us in the royal court (the Friend Ship Company classrooms).

Royally yours,  
the Friend Ship company Crew



**Lakeshore**  
COMMUNITY • CHURCH

# Baptisms at Lakeshore: April 17, 2009

By Paul Clark

Have you made a commitment of faith in Christ? Get baptized! Lakeshore's Senior Pastor Vince DiPaola believes that "Baptisms are the greatest days at Lakeshore."

"Baptism is one of the two sacraments ordained by Jesus Christ—and is performed anytime after conversion." (The other sacrament is communion, which Lakeshore offers at Common Ground, on the first Thursday of each month.) (Excerpted from "What We Believe," [lakeshorechurch.org](http://lakeshorechurch.org))

The special service included worship music from the music team. The evening was highlighted by personal testimonies. Pastor Vince especially enjoys the testimonies and says, "People who hear the stories are encouraged...people... who share the stories are excited by the experience." Baptism services at Lakeshore are guaranteed to move you and it is heart-warming to see the family and friends that come to support the loved one being baptized. There are often plenty of tears at these services.

The next baptism ceremonies are August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup>.





# Talking With God

*By MaryAnn Meisenzahl*

Is it faith or despair that makes one long to talk with God? I believe it is both. As part of the prayer ministry I am encouraged by people's willingness to approach a stranger in a noisy church hallway, asking them to pray for their needs—needs that could bring down the strongest and most faithful. Most often I am moved to tears by those requests as I humble myself before our Lord to earnestly seek healing, wisdom and peace for my brothers and sisters.

The Holy Spirit is at work in every person who steps back into that little space at church where together we reach out to God. Jesus is with us in the darkest caves of our minds when we humble ourselves to call on Him. I feel the Lord's presence and I can't thank Him enough for His sacrifice on the cross for all of us. A sacrifice so powerful, so filled with love eternal that I am stunned to silence and tears. I picture His arms around us when we pray, for I know they are. I feel His mercy as we move from our church home to our daily lives, and realize how blessed we are. I don't deserve it. I know that, but I am forever grateful for the gift of God's amazing grace.

Like everyone else I experience my ebb times. On those days when I am aware of that slippery space between God and me, I pray. I ask Him for courage, for His answer isn't always what I want. It is what I need. I ask Him to continue showing me, loving me, and I know He will. I thank him for his patience with me because I would have given up on myself long ago.

God tells us he is with us throughout the ages. Talk with Him. It doesn't matter if you think your words are too simple for our King. He knows you like nobody else. Get to know Him. Ask him to guide you through your most challenging times but also invite him to the party as you celebrate life's riches. Reach out to Him through all times of feast and famine, in thanks and repentance, and as you grow closer to our Lord you will discover yourself and your purpose.

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*By Amy Mitchell*

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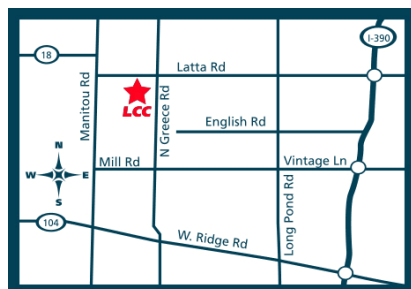




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Want an email update of all that's happening at Lakeshore?  
Sign up for "This Week At Lakeshore" via our website [www.lakeshorechurch.org](http://www.lakeshorechurch.org)

## SUNDAY SERVICES

### I Think I Married The Wrong Person

- 5/24 What Makes A Marriage Thrive?
- 5/31 Surviving A Marital Mismatch
- 6/7 How To Be Single And Satisfied
- 6/14 What Women Wish Men Knew
- 6/21 What Men Wish Women Knew
- 6/28 Marathon Marriages

### Leadership Matters (Nehemiah)

- 7/5 Conviction: What Do You Do With A Broken Heart?
- 7/12 Courage: Acting On Your Convictions
- 7/19 Influence: Being A Leader Where You Are
- 7/26 Organization: Turning Your Disorder Into Order
- 8/2 Joint Service: Tearing Down The Racial Walls
- 8/9 Perseverance: Outlasting Your Opposition
- 8/16 Problem-Solving: Working Through Your Challenges
- 8/23 Determination: Conquering Your Critics
- 8/30 Faithfulness: Finishing Your Work Well
- 9/6 God's Word: The Power To Transform Your Life

## COMMON GROUND MIDWEEK SERVICE

### HEBREWS: OUR SUPERIOR SAVIOR

- 6/4 The New Covenant: From Law To Life (8:1-13)
- 6/18 Touring The True Tabernacle (9:1-28)
- 7/2 Jesus' Sacrifice: Once For All (10:1-18)
- 7/16 Persevering In The Faith (10:19-39)
- 7/30 God's Hall Of Faith, part 1 (11:1-31)
- 8/20 God's Hall Of Faith, part 2 (11:32-40)
- 9/3 Enduring Hardship (12:1-13)
- 9/10 Refuse God Nothing (12:14-29)
- 9/17 Vision Night 2009

